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S/N 09/911,143

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Wada et al.	Examiner:	Unknown
Serial No.:	09/911,143	Group Art Unit:	2651
Filed:	July 23, 2001	Docket No.:	10873.772US01
Title:	OPTICAL ELEMENT, OPTICAL HEAD, OPTICAL RECORDING/REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND OPTICAL RECORDING/REPRODUCING METHOD		

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence and the paper(s), as described herein, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on October 23, 2001.

By:

Jennifer Carlson
Jennifer Carlson

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b))

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted within three months of the filing date of the above-identified application, which is not an application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d). Accordingly, no fee is due for consideration of the items listed on the enclosed Form 1449.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2), a copy of each document or other information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 is provided.

A concise explanation of the relevance of each non-English language document or other information is as follows (37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3)):

Applicant brings to the attention of the Examiner that:

JP 10-269611 corresponds to US 6,172,957

JP 2000-131603 corresponds to EP1043615 A

JP 10-334575 corresponds to EP 883115 A

JP 2000-235727 corresponds to EP 1011009 A and

JP 6-27322 corresponds to EP 565381 A.

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.



Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Dated: October 23, 2001

By Curtis B. Hamre
Curtis B. Hamre
Reg. No. 29,165

DPM/jlc



FORM 1449*

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

IN AN APPLICATION

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Docket Number:

10873.772US01

Application Number:

09/911,143

Applicant: Wada et al.

Filing Date: July 23, 2001

Group Art Unit: 2651

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	6,115,336	09/05/2000	Okada			
	6,172,957 B1	01/09/2001	Ogasawara			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO
✓	6-27322	02/04/1994	Japan			Abstract	
✓	10-269611	10/09/1998	Japan				
✓	10-334575	12/18/1998	Japan				
✓	2000-131603	05/12/2000	Japan				
✓	2000-171346	06/23/2000	Japan			Abstract	
	2000-235727	08/29/2000	Japan				
✓	2001-084631	03/30/2001	Japan			Abstract	
✓	2001-143303	05/25/2001	Japan			Abstract	
✓	EP 0 565 381 A2	10/13/1993	EPO				
✓	EP 0 883 115 A2	12/09/1998	EPO				
✓	EP 1 011 009 A1	06/21/2000	EPO				
✓	EP 1 043 615 A1	10/11/2000	EPO				

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)



23552

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form for next communication to the Applicant.